

Message Text

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 05074 080316Z

63

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 5074

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF IATF TEAM MEMBER TO REPUBLIC OF CHINA

FOR IATF DIRECTOR JULIA TAFT FROM ANTIPPAS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: SPECIAL IATF TEAM MEMBER VISITED TAIWAN AUGUST 4-5, DISCUSSED REFUGEE SITUATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS, MET WITH MOFA OFFICERS CONCERNED WITH PROBLEM AND LEARNED THAT WHILE THERE ARE MINIMAL NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIA REFUGEES CONCERNED, THE ROC HAS TAKEN AND IS PREPARED TO TAKE OVERSEAS CHINESE FROM INDOCHINA. END SUMMARY.

2. IATF TEAM MEMBER ANTIPPAS LEFT TEAM AT HONG KONG AUGUST 4 AND PROCEEDED TO TAIWAN FOR BRIEF OVERVIEW OF CURRENT REFUGEE SITUATION BEFORE PROCEEDING TO THE US ON AUGUST 5. IN EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION WITH DCM, POL COUNSELOR AND MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY'S CONSULAR SECTION SITUATION IN THE US REFUGEE SYSTEM WAS REVIEWED AS WELL AS THE FINDINGS OF THE TEAM'S SWEEP THROUGH HONG KONG, THAILAND, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE. WHILE WORKLOAD FOR EMBASSY TAIPEI HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY LIGHTER OVERALL THAN OTHER POSTS IN ASIA, MOST REFUGEES ARE PHYSICALLY LOCATED AT THE SOUTHERN END OF THE ISLAND 45 AIRLINE
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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 05074 080316Z

MINUTES AWAY AND WORKLOAD HAS IMPINGED HEAVILY ON ONE OR TWO OFFICERS MOST DIRECTLY INVOLVE. EMBASSY STAFF KDHAS ALSO BEEN LIMITED BY PERSONNEL SHORTAGES DUE TO LEAVE AND TRANSFERS DURING THE BUSY TOURIST AND VISA

ISSUING SEASON. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS WAS LAID UPON
NECESSITY TO ADHERE TO PAROLE CRITERIA.

3. IATF DEL BELIEVES THAT CRITERIA HAVE BEEN OBSERVED
IN A VERY PROFESSIONAL MANNER AND THERE IS NO NECESSITY
FOR REVIEW BY INS INSPECTOR. GREATEST SINGLE PROBLEM
NOW BEING ENCOUNTERED BY THE EMBASSY IS CHINESE AND
SINO-VIETNAMESE WHO DID NOT LEAVE VIETNAM DURING THE
EVACUATION AND WHO HAVE CLAIMS TO CHINESE PASSPORTS AND
REFUGE IN TAIWAN WHO ARE TRYING TO INSER THEMSELVES
INTO THE US REFUGEE STREAM. OF 376 VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN
REFUGEES WHO HAVE LEFT TAIWAN FOR THE US, 308 WERE TAKEN
FROM THE REFUGEE CAMP AT KAOHSIUNG. NOT
COUNTING 14 WHO DEPARTED FOR THE US ON UGUST 3, ONE
HUNDRED EIGHT REFUGEES APPEAR TO MEET CURRENT EXPANDED
CRITERIA AND WILL DEPART AS SOON AS AFFIDAVITS HAVE BEEN
EXECUTED AND TRANSPORT HAS BEEN LAID ON. THE ONLY OTHER
THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT HAS BEEN THE DEPARTURE OF SIX
SAMILY MEMBERS OF THE FORMER GKR REP WHO DEPARTED FOR
FRANCE THROUGH THE ASSISTANCE OF A LOCAL FRENCH ENTRE-
PRENEUR.

4. IN DISCUSSION WITH MFA CHIEF OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS AND
THE MFA OFFICER MOST INVOLVED WITH THE VIETNAMESE
REFUGEES, ANTIPPAS WAS TOLD THAT THE ROC HAS ACCEPTED
SOME 1600 SINO-VIETNAMESE FOR RESETTLEMENT ON TAIWAN.
SIGNIFICANTLY, GROC EFFORT IS CHAIRED BY OVERSEAS CHINESE
COMMISSION. BASIS FOR ACCEPTANCE BY TAIWAN IS THAT INDI-
VIDUALS HAVE CLAIM TO CHINESE CITIZENSHIP, I.E.,
HAVE A CHINESE FATHER; THAT HE MAKE APPLICA-
TION AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND THAT HE HAVE A SPONSOR THAT
WILL GIVE SHELTER AND SUSTENANCE AND PROVIDE SOME
GUARANTEE OF HIS POLITICAL PURITY. GROC HAS OBVIOUSLY
TAKEN ITS LEAD FROM US CRITERIA IN TERMS OF ACCEPTING
REFUGEES BY TAKING ONLY THSE WITH CONNECTIONS OR WHO
WERE PICKED UP BY CHINESE FLAG VESSELS. GROC HESITANCE
TO OPEN ITS DOORS EXCEPT FOR THOSE DOCUMENTABLE AS CHINESE
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PAGE 03 TAIPEI 05074 080316Z

IS UNDERSCORED BY ITS FEAR THAT A WAVE OF OVERSEAS
CHINESE FROM INDOCHINA DN THAILAND WOULD POSE INSUPERABLE,
FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW, SECURITY RISK AND ECONOMIC
BURDEN.

5. MFA OFFICIALS NEVERTHELESS ESTIMATE THAT IN ADDITION
TO THOSE WHO CAME IN THE EVACUATION OUTLINED ABOVE,
THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 1800 VIETNAMESE, 400 LAO
AND 300 CAMBODIAN OVERSEAS CHINESE WHO FLED
BEFORE THE FALL OF SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH. THE MFA UNDER-
STANDS THAT THERE ARE AN ADDITIONAL 1500 OVERSEAS CHINESE
IN CAMPS IN THAILAND OF WHOM ONLY 100 REGISTERED FOR
EMIGRATION BEFORE THE GROC EMBASSY WAS CALOSED AT THE

END OF JULY. MFA OFFICIAL GAVE ANTIPPAS AND EMOFF TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT WOULD APPRECIATE AND ALSO ACT UPON INFORMATION GIVEN TO IT THAT WAS GARNERED IN VISITS TO REFUGEE CENTERS IN THAILAND ABOUT THOSE OVERSEAS CHINESE WHO NGHT QUALIFY FOR EMIGRATION TO TAIWAN. MFA OFFICIAL, WILLIAM LIU, FORMER SECOND SECRETARY IN GROC EMBASSY IN SAIGON AND INDIVIDUAL MOST INVOLVED IN REFUGEE MATTERS ON WORKING LEVEL, INDICATED MFA HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH ICRC SINCE ITS EXPULSION FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUT THAT IF CRS IN THAILAND DID SURVEYS OF CAMPS AND SUPPLIED IT DIRECTLY TO GROC MFA, ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS COULD BE ENTERTAINED FROM THAILAND. LIU STRESSED MFA WOULD NOT ACCEPT INFO IF CHANNELED THROUGH LOCAL CRS REP. EMBASSY HAS AGREED TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS WITH LIU.

6. IN COMPLETING RUNDOWN OF US SITUATION WITH MFA OFFICIALS, ANTIPPAS EXPRESSED USG APPRECIATION FOR GROC'S ASSISTANCE OVERALL AND FOR THE FACT THAT THE GROC HAS DECIDED TO ACCEPT SOME 65 SINO-VIETNAMESE WHO WERE EVACUATED TO GUAM AND WHO EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO SETTLE ON TAIWAN.
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